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(56) Documents Cited

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(58) Field of Search

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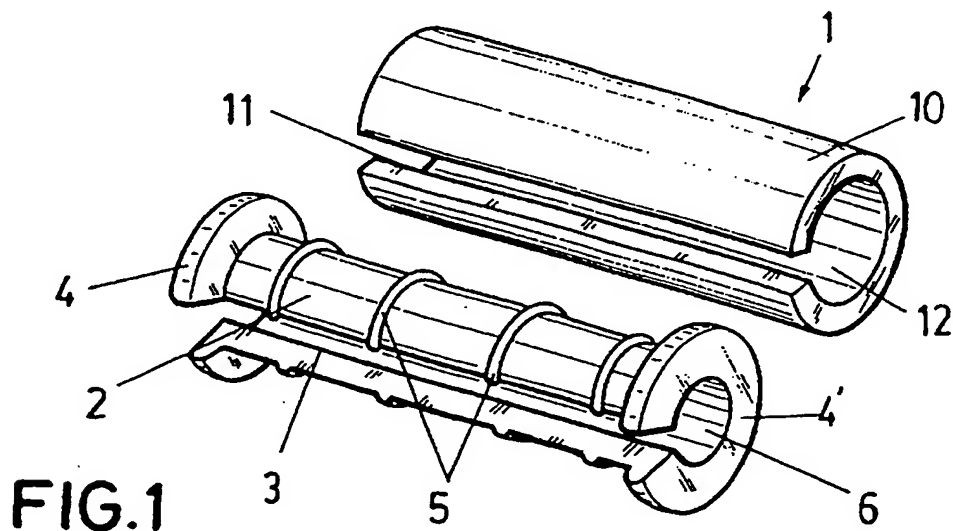
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Online: EPODOC, WPI, JAPIO

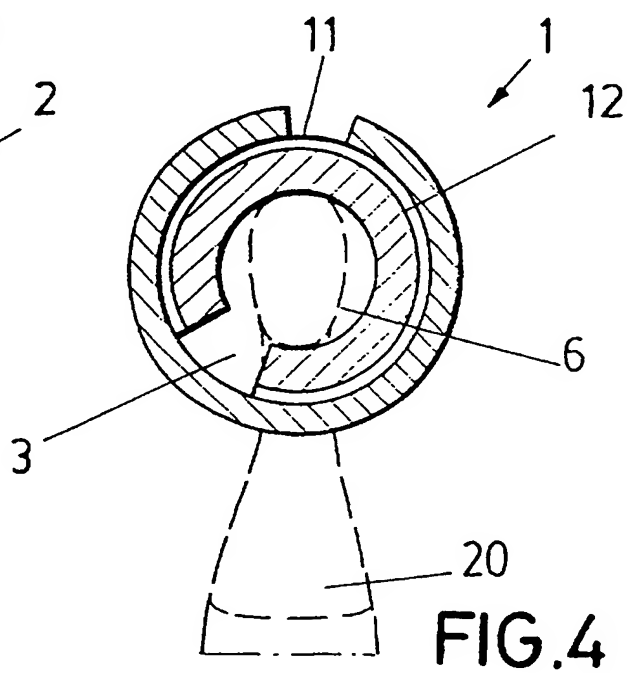
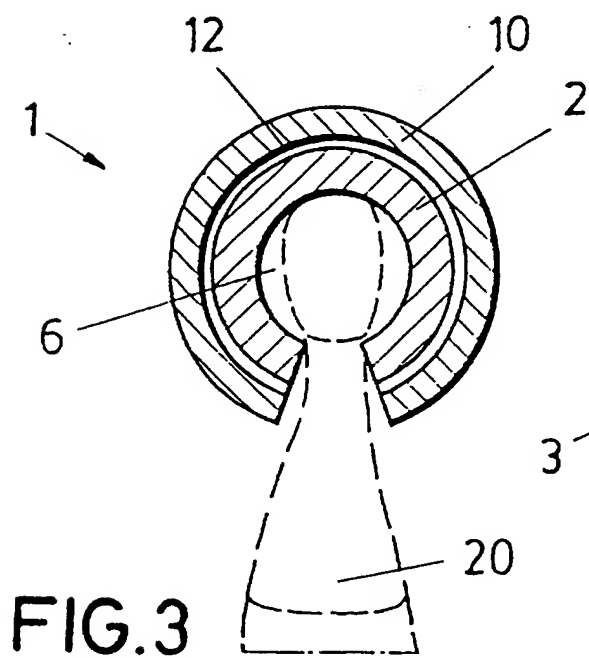
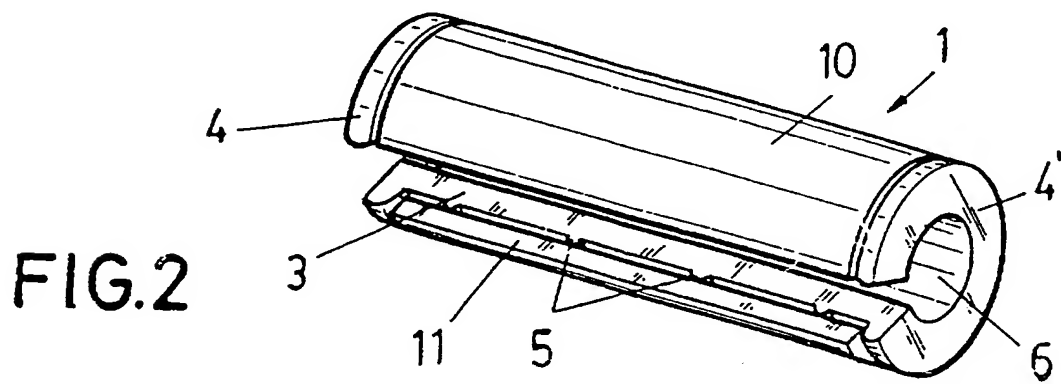
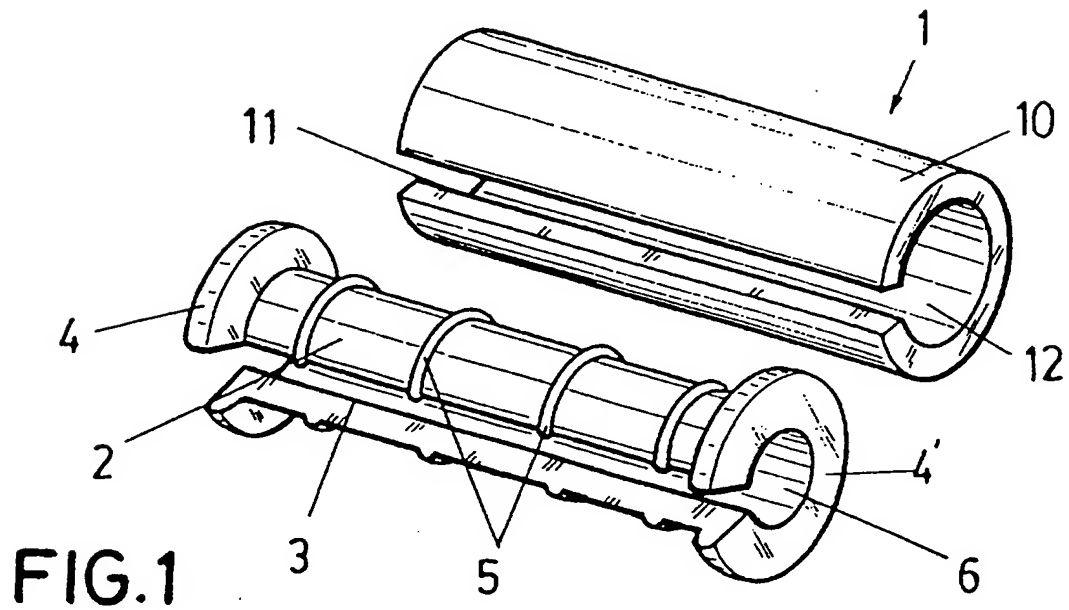
(54) Abstract Title

Two-part tubular handle

(57) A handle for carrying flexible bags comprises an outer tubular body part 10 with a longitudinal slit 11 and an inner tubular body part 2 with a longitudinal slit 3, and the inner body part 2 is inserted into the outer body part 10. The inner body part has a radially projecting flange 4, 4', on each of its two ends and radially projecting ribs 5 which extend around its external surface and engage with the internal surface 12 of the outer body part. The flanges 4, 4' may be integrally formed with the inner tubular body part 2 and the ribs 5 may extend around the circumference of the body part 2 to the edges of its slot 3. The handle may be formed from a stiff plastics material.



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**TITLE: IMPROVED VERSATILE HANDLE****Purpose**

This description refers to an improved versatile handle, intended to avoid discomfort to the hand of the user, caused by the weight of products carried in flexible bags, such as vest-type bags which are conventionally distributed in supermarkets, shops, shopping centres, etc. The handle acts equally as a protector or hand-saver when transporting a package reinforced with a support rope or belts, bands, etc. and the hand is protected at all times. In use the handle of the bag remains inside the inner body part due to the rotation of the outer body part, which closes the longitudinal slot into which the handle of the bag, rope, band or similarly shaped component is inserted.

**Scope**

This invention is applicable to the industry dedicated to the manufacture of auxiliary materials for shops and the like and is also applicable to the advertising industries and plastic material transforming industries.

**Background to the Invention**

A considerable number of handles, hand-savers, protectors and the like are known, the general purpose of which is to avoid discomfort to the palm of the hand of the user when carrying flexible bags with objects inside them, or packages reinforced with ropes or bands.

It has been found that in general these auxiliary components for transporting packages and bags reduce to a greater or lesser degree, the aforementioned discomfort, but at the same time it has been found that if the protecting elements or handles are shaped as cylindrical

bodies of a flexible material they deteriorate due to the weight of the transported packages. Hitherto, no handle or similar auxiliary component consisting of a single inner body part and a single outer body part has been proposed.

### **Description of the Invention**

According to the invention there is provided an improved versatile handle, comprising an outer cylindrical body part having a circular internal cavity and a longitudinal slot, into which cavity an inner cylindrical body part is inserted, the inner cylindrical body part having a longitudinal slot, a circular internal cavity and at its ends radially projecting flanges, characterised in that: the inner cylindrical body part has radially projecting ribs that extend around its external surface and which engage with the internal surface of the outer cylindrical body part.

Preferably the inner cylindrical body part and the radially projecting flanges are formed as one component.

Preferably the improved versatile handle is formed from a stiff plastics material.

Preferably the radially projecting ribs extend around the external surface of the inner cylindrical body part to the edges of the longitudinal slot.

The handles of the bags, ropes, bands, etc. are inserted into the inner body part through the aligned slots and the opening thus formed is then closed by rotating the inner body part relative to the outer body part. The versatile handle is thus operable to carry any object that is provided with grasping elements shaped like a handle, rope, band, cord, etc.

### **Description of the Figures**

A preferred embodiment of the invention will now be described by way of example with reference to the accompanying drawings in which:

Figure 1 is a perspective view of the two body parts of the preferred improved versatile handle,

Figure 2 is a perspective view of the handle of figure 1, with the two body parts assembled,

Figure 3 is a transverse sectional view of the handle of figure 2 with a slot open, and a bag in broken lines, and

Figure 4 is a transverse sectional view of the handle of figure 2 with the slot closed, and a bag in broken lines.

### **Preferred Embodiment of the Invention**

It can be seen that the improved versatile handle (1) comprises an outer cylindrical body part (10) having a circular internal cavity (12), and a longitudinal slot (11) through which an inner cylindrical body part (2) is introduced into the circular internal cavity (12) of the outer cylindrical body part (10). The inner cylindrical body part has a longitudinal slot (3) of substantially the same size as the slot (11) in the outer cylindrical body part (10), the inner cylindrical body part (2) further has radially projecting ribs (5) that extend around its external surface to the edges of the longitudinal slot (3) and at its ends radially projecting flanges (4) and (4') that extend to the edges of the longitudinal slot (3). The radially projecting flanges (4) and (4') prevent longitudinal displacement of the outer cylindrical body part (10) relative to the inner cylindrical body part (2) when the improved versatile handle is assembled.

The inner cylindrical body part (2) has a circular internal cavity (6) to accommodate the handle of a bag (20), as shown in Figures 3 and 4. Figure 3 illustrates the introduction of the handle of the bag (20) into the circular internal cavity (6) through the slots (3) and (11) of the inner and outer cylindrical body parts (2) and (10) when said slots are in register. The handle of the bag (20) is restrained in the circular internal cavity (6) of the inner

cylindrical body part (2) by rotating the outer cylindrical body to bring the slots out of register, as shown in Figure 4.

The radially projecting ribs (5) of the inner cylindrical body part (2) engage the inner surface of the outer cylindrical body part (10) and permit the outer cylindrical body part (10) to rotate smoothly relative to the inner cylindrical body part (2) due to the absence of a large area of contact.

The material used to form the improved versatile handle (1) will normally be stiff plastic, although any other suitable material may be used.

Each of the body parts will generally be integrally moulded as a single component.

Modifications may be made within the scope of the appended claims.

**CLAIMS**

1. An improved versatile handle, comprising an outer cylindrical body part (10) having a circular internal cavity (12) and a longitudinal slot (11), into which cavity an inner cylindrical body part (2) is inserted, the inner cylindrical body part (2) having a longitudinal slot (3), a circular internal cavity (6) and at its ends radially projecting flanges (4) and (4'), characterised in that: the inner cylindrical body part (2) has radially projecting ribs (5) that extend around its external surface and which engage with the internal surface of the outer cylindrical body part (10).
2. An improved versatile handle according to claim 1, wherein the inner cylindrical body part (2) and the radially projecting flanges (4) and (4') are formed as one component.
3. An improved versatile handle according to claim 1 or claim 2, wherein the improved versatile handle is formed from a stiff plastics material.
4. An improved versatile handle according to any of the preceding claims, wherein the radially projecting ribs (5) extend around the external surface of the inner cylindrical body part (2) to the edges of the longitudinal slot (3).
5. An improved versatile handle constructed and arranged substantially as herein particularly described with reference to the accompanying drawings.



**Application No:** GB 0001664.2

**Examiner:** Dr Fatema  
Sardharwala

**Claims searched:** 1-5

**Date of search:** 12 April 2000

**Patents Act 1977  
Search Report under Section 17**

**Databases searched:**

UK Patent Office collections, including GB, EP, WO & US patent specifications, in:

UK Cl (Ed.R): A4G

Int Cl (Ed.7): A45F 5/10

Other: Online: EPODOC, WPI, JAPIO

**Documents considered to be relevant:**

Category	Identity of document and relevant passage	Relevant to claims
A	GB 2283669 A (VICENTE) whole document	1-4
X	DE 2941213 A1 (KUTBAY) Fig. 1 and 2, lines 16 to 20 of page 7 and lines 24-30 of page 9	

X Document indicating lack of novelty or inventive step  
Y Document indicating lack of inventive step if combined with one or more other documents of same category.  
& Member of the same patent family

A Document indicating technological background and/or state of the art.  
P Document published on or after the declared priority date but before the filing date of this invention.  
E Patent document published on or after, but with priority date earlier than, the filing date of this application.